

## The Cause and Calling of the First Crusade (Animated)

Fyrsta krossferðin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pft3EQ1SGS0>

14 mín

This video is my visual interpretation of Raymond Ibrahim's book *Defenders of the West* if you're looking to understand the Crusades through just one book this is it I highly recommend purchasing a copy for yourself the first chapter of the book explores the reasons behind the Crusades and introduces Godfrey as a central leader

Due to its length I've divided the 3D animation visualization of the first chapter into several videos beginning in the 4th Century as the Roman Empire started to christianize Jerusalem where Christ was crucified buried and resurrected gained significant importance and emerged as the focal point of pilgrimage.

in the 330s Constantine the Great commanded construct a grand Temple complex on the side of Christ's burial uncover the True Cross made from fragments of the execution instrument and enshrine [skrínlögð innan helgidómsins] it within the temple. ....“Jeshaia”...Jesú...?

Then the grand Temple was built under the emperor's order and it became known as the holy Seplecer .....skrín eða gralið.....? the temple became known as the holy Seplecer .....? both the temple and the cross would hold immense significance for Christendom and profoundly influence the trajectory of this video series

Constantine died in the year of 337 precisely 300 years after Constantine's death the Arabs who had recently unified under the banner of Islam conquered Jerusalem from the Eastern Roman Empire in 637 thereafter the Christians of the Holy Land were generation after generation persecuted to the point of Slaughter and destruction suffered at the hands of Muslim rulers

For example in the early 8th Century 70 Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem were tortured and executed for refusing to convert to Islam. Seven who converted were spared

Some years after that another 60 pilgrims were crucified in Jerusalem in the late 8th Century Muslims destroyed two churches and a monastery near Bethlehem they also slaughtered its monks in 796 Muslims burned another 20 monks to death

In 809 and again in 813 multiple monasteries convents and churches were attacked in and around Jerusalem Christians of both sexes were gang and massacred on Palm Sunday of 929 another wave of atrocities broke out churches were destroyed and Christians slaughtered not every Muslim leader was committed to the destruction of churches and persecution of Christians

Some were more pragmatic leaving dimies alone on payment of jizya and acceptance of social inferiority that said and as in other Muslim occupied territories whether the next ruler would be radical or moderate to use an anachronistic but familiar dichotomy was always a coin flip away as for the Muslim populace. Then as now mobs were always ready to Rise Against and plunder Christians under any pretext

Even the holy Seer Christendom most sacred church was not spared in 936 the Muslims in Jerusalem made a rising and burnt down the church which they plundered and destroyed all they could of it, records one Muslim chronicler.

Similarly in 1009 Fatimid khalif Hakeim B Allah ordered one of his officials

“destroy the Seiler church and have the people plunder it so thoroughly all traces of it were obliterated”

They did exactly that, such wanten vandalism

“plunged the entire church and the city of Rome into deep grief in distress”

to quote the pope of the time Sergius the IV. Not content Hakeim further ordered the destruction of according to Muslim accounts some 30,000 churches throughout Egypt and greater Syria

Although a much smaller church was rebuilt over the Seiler of Christ in 1048 this church also remained under threat subsequent Muslim rulers permitted Christians to rebuild the church due to the significant revenues generated by Christian pilgrimages despite the risk of another Infidel Church being destroyed

As William of Ty an important Crusades chronicler born and raised in the Holy Land writes when the Muslims desired to exact anything by force from either the patriarch or the people any delay in rendering obedience was immediately followed by the threat that the church would be pulled down

Around the same time the SE was being rebuilt the seljuk Turks Rose to power in Afghanistan and Eastern Iran in the 1040s occupied Baghdad in 1055 keeping the Abbasid califfs as figureheads and continued marching Westward into Syria

No other Muslim peoples would come to spearhead the Jihad as the Turks had both friend and foe attest to their martial prowess and religious Zeal. As Bernard Lewis writes “the converted Turks sank their national identity in Islam as the Arabs and Persians had never done “

Aaccordingly under Turkish influence Islam regained the Zeal of the early Arab conquests and reopened holy war against its Christian foes on a significant scale matters went from bad to worse, for the people of the ancient Christian region of Asia Minor the future turkey.

Particularly those on its easternmost Edge where the Turks first began to invade namely the Armenians hundreds of thousands of these Christians were either massacred or enslaved and thousands of churches were torched or transformed into mosques

The pivotal moment came in 1071 after the decisive Turkish victory over the Eastern Roman Empire at manzikert which opened the rest of the Anatolian plane to turkic Islam. Then the sultan Muhammad bin daud chagi or Alp arsan called on his followers,

...run through the countryside day and night, slay the Christians and do not spare any Mercy on them....

Eagerly they obliged and penetrated Westward as a result cities were obliterated lands were plundered and “the whole of Romo or Anatolia was stained with Christian blood” writes the Eastern Roman Princess Anna comini.

All that was left were devastated Fields trees cut down mutilated corpses and towns driven mad by fear or inflames. The Byzantine emperor Alexios the IV comenos who reigned from 1081 to 1118 recounted his people's travails

How hard the most holy Roman Christian Empire is being pressed by the Turks. Pillaged daily and constantly raided with Christians being murdered and mocked in various Indescribable ways, not only did the Muslim Invaders defile the holy places in innumerable ways and Destroy them, but they would circumcise Christian boys and youths above Christian baptismal fonts pour the blood from the circumcision into the fonts.

In mockery of Christ, force them to urinate on it and then drag them around the church and force them to blaspheme the name and Faith of the Holy Trinity, those who refuse are subjected to various punishments and eventually killed.

As for Christian women the Muslim Invaders took virgins and made them public prostitutes, mothers were violated in the presence of their daughters over and over again, by different men while their daughters were compelled not only to watch, but to sing obscene songs and to dance then they changed places and the suffering which is painful and shameful to speak of was inflicted upon the daughters, while the filthy activity was adorned by the obscene songs of the unfortunate mothers.

When the female sex was not spared they became worse than animals breaking all human laws by turning on men their lust overflowed to the point that the execrable and profoundly intolerable crime of sodomy, which they committed against men of middle or low station .

[Applause] they also committed against a certain Bishop killing him a medieval pelet and chronicler named William of Ty lamented that conditions scarcely better in the Holy Land.

Jerusalem's Christians endured even greater hardships under the Turks making their past tribulations under the Egyptian fmds and the Persian abbasids seemed comparatively lighter in retrospect death threatened them every day and what was worse than death the fear of servitude harsh and intolerable ever lowered before them

William proceeds to offer a typical example

Even as the Christians celebrated their holy rights the Turkish enemy would violently force their way into the churches which had been painstakingly restored and preserved after earlier destruction under the Egyptians and Persians utterly without reverence for the consecrated places they sat upon the very altars and struck Terror to the heart of the worshippers with their mad cries and whistling they overturned the chales trod underfoot the utensils devoted to the Divine offices broke the marble statues and showered blows and insults upon the clergy the Lord patriarch then in office was dragged from his seat by hair and beard and thrown to the ground again and again he was seized and thrust into prison without cause treatment fit only for the lowest slave was inflicted upon him in order to torture his people who suffered with him as with a father

Nor were European pilgrims to Jerusalem spared as the Turks were ruling the lands of Syria and Palestine they inflicted injuries on Christians who went to prey in Jerusalem beat them pillaged them and levied the pole tax or gizia moreover every time they saw a caravan of Christians particularly of those from Rome and the land of Italy they made every effort to cause their death in diverse ways

It was in this abysmal context that at the Council of Claremont on November 27th 1095 Pope Urban II called for what came to be known as the First Crusade after describing to the assembled Lords and Nobles the plight of Eastern Christendom under Islam he cried

Who is to repair this damage if you do not do it rise up and remember the manly Deeds of your ancestors including the prowess and greatness of Charlamagne.

For the Marshall Knights of the West hearing of the aforementioned Muslim atrocities against Christendom was intolerable thus when Urban concluded by calling on them to undertake an armed pilgrimage to Jerusalem with the twin goals of Defending fellow Christians and liberating the Seiler of Christ with one voice all in assembly cried out "God wills it".

Thereafter and in the words of the Contemporary Armenian chronicler Matthew of Odessa who lived Circa 1075 to 1144.

All the peoples of Italy and Spain right up to the confines of Africa and even the distant Frankish Nation began to move and surged forth in a formidable and immense throng they were very much like the Sands of the Seas which are beyond the mind's calculation the

noblemen of the Frankish Nation rose up and came forth each of them came with his troops to Aid the Christians to deliver the holy city of Jerusalem from the infidels and to free the holy Seiler from the hands of the Muslims they were illustrious men of Royal Blood endowed with piety and faith and brought up in the practice of good works here are the names of these Franks

First to be named in Matthew's list is Godfrey a Mighty Man from the lineage of the Roman emperors if you're enjoying what you've seen so far please consider supporting the author Raymond Ibrahim by purchasing his book *Defenders of the West* stay tuned for the next episode